

1102-258 Lisgar St.
Ottawa K2P 0C9

Hon Murray Elston,
c/o Ms Mary Trahelo,
Minister's Office,
Ministry of Health.

3 March 1986

Dear Mr. Elston:

Keep up the good fight against the OMA.

We've been fighting them for twenty years, trying to get health care for people with Environmental Sensitivities. Some of our people have died while their specialists wallow in parochial politics, blocking treatment that's easy to get in Britain and the United States.

We've grown since we started looking for help twenty years ago. Now there are ten thousand of us, just in this province. We've grown in more than numbers, our concern has matured too. There are so many others in the province saying the same thing, we see that the power medical doctors have in our health system prevents others from getting healthy as well.

It's not that doctors are malicious. We know how hard it is at medical school, greed alone would not be enough of a driving force to continue. They've got to have heart. But a great gift can be a prison. In the case of the OMA, their power has gone to their heads. They are no longer standing around the circle with the rest of us, but place themselves above all others concerned with health, in judgement from an inaccessible inner sanctum, where, at least in our case, health care, even life itself, is prevented by specialist politics dressed up as concerns which are at most academic.

We know some doctors get dizzy when they rise to the heights of serving on a committee of their professional organization. They show over and over that they lose perspective. Their great gift, their expertise, becomes manifest as selective perception. They mix up facts with beliefs, in a ghetto attitude, irrespective of (and harmful to) the hard evidence of thousands of people. They forget that just like you and me, their knowledge is also subjective, no matter how long they were cut off from the rest of us at medical school.

I repeat, in fairness, not all doctors are as self-important as the OMA would have us believe. Many work for average salaries in community clinics, for instance. And not all doctors stand in the way of social progress, a few doctors give their whole lives to it.

We hope you'll help us, especially when so many others are sending the same message: Ontario doctors, at least as represented by the OMA, are not as concerned with health care as they are with who gets paid, how much, and for what.

Please accept the attached brief as one representation on what is still, literally, a life and death issue.

Respectfully yours,



Chris Brown

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AGES
Advocacy Group for the Environmentally Sensitive